



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

Georgia State Board of Pharmacy, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
<http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/pharmacy> P: 478-207-2440 F: 866- 888-1308

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Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The last quarter of the year is one of the busiest processing times for the staff at PLB. We have twelve different license types in renewal during the period along with a number of December graduates applying for various licenses. For existing license holders, our on-line renewal process allows us to process in excess of 92% of our renewals with very nominal staff involvement. It also provides our customers with a process that is fast, efficient, paperless and accurate.

For the new graduates, we now have 32 on-line applications available for those applying for their first license with us. This enables some new graduates to go on-line, register, apply for licensure and pay their fees. This paperless system allows the staff to process applications much quicker to the benefit of the applicant who can receive their license and go to work much

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faster than in the past. We are planning more on-line applications for the near future.

As we begin the year 2010, we will continue to offer more services on-line and strive to improve our processing times. For license holders, please keep your personal information up to date and accurate so our transactions with you can be faster and more accurate.

About the Board

The Georgia State Board of Pharmacy consists of eight members: seven licensed pharmacists and one consumer member. Typically, the Board meets twelve times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

The practice of pharmacy consists of the art and science that deals with the nature, preparation, administration, and effects of drugs and medications. Pharmacists may dispense drugs or devices as authorized by a written prescription of a physician or authorized practitioner of the healing arts. As a learned science, pharmacist licensure is considered after meeting specific pharmaceutical educational, internship/externship requirements and examination. All pharmacies are inspected prior to licensure and as needed and must meet specific standards for operation.

2010 Meeting Dates

May 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 June 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (UGA – Athens)
 July 14, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 August 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (South – Savannah)
 September 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 October 13, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 November 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.
 December 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at
www.sos.ga.gov/plb/Pharmacy

Active Licensees

Pharmacist: 12,880
 Retail Pharmacy: 2,420
 Wholesaler Pharmacy: 1,424
 Researcher Pharmacy: 363
 Hospital Pharmacy: 213
 Nuclear Pharmacist 125
 Nuclear Pharmacy: 16
 Manufacturing Pharmacy: 108
 Pharmacist Intern: 3,021
 Prison Pharmacy: 12
 Clinic Pharmacy: 3
 School Pharmacy: 3
 Opioid Treatment Clinic Pharmacy: 49
 Home Healthcare – Retail Pharmacy: 35
 PBM – Retail Pharmacy: 5
 Limited Chemical Wholesale Distributor: 35
 Pharmacist Certification of DTM: 30

Board Members and Staff

Mickey Tatum, President
 Steve Wilson, Vice President
 Fred Barber
 Judy Gardner
 Pat McPherson
 Al McConnell
 William "Bill" Prather
 Ronald J. Wallace, Consumer Member

Anita O. Martin
 Executive Director
 Georgia State Board of Pharmacy

Expiration Dates

Pharmacists: December 31st of even numbered years
Nuclear Pharmacists: December 31st of even numbered years
Clinic Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Home Healthcare, Retail Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Hospital Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Limited Chemical Wholesale Distributors: June 30th of odd numbered years
Manufacturing Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Nuclear Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Opioid Treatment Clinic Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
PBM–Retail Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Prison Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Retail Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
School Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Wholesaler Pharmacy: June 30th of odd numbered years
Researcher Pharmacy: June 30th of even numbered years

Actions Taken by the Board

January: The Board voted to adopt an amendment to Board Rule 480–3–.03 to require continuing education coursework in disaster preparedness.

The Board voted to post new rules in Chapter 480–36 concerning retail pharmacy requirements for remote prescription drug order processing.

The Board accepted an interim consent order from the following individual, suspending his license:

- Stephen Profitt, Marietta

The Board accepted a public consent order from the following individual:

- Richard B. Smith, Marietta: \$24,000 fine, restricted ability to work as a pharmacist in charge.

February: The Board voted to accept interim consent orders on the following individuals, suspending the licenses:

- Keith W. Cowart, Jesup
- Eric Gray, Marietta

The Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of the following individual:

- Rajib Ullah, Atlanta

March: The Board accepted a non-disciplinary reinstatement consent order from the following individual:

- Genevieve Reid, Carrollton

The Board accepted consent orders from following licensees:

- Faith Pharmacy, College Park
- The Compound Shop, Stockbridge

License Renewal Process

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478–207–2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The Board addresses these issues on a case-by-case basis and applies sanctions to those who violate the Georgia Board of Pharmacy Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/pharmacy.

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia Board of Pharmacy website.

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 26-4-60 or at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19, which can be found on the Georgia Board of Pharmacy website.

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia Board of Pharmacy to regulate the licensing and regulation of pharmacists and pharmacies in Georgia. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 26-4 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted online at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which are found on the Board website. Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at: www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.